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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

*Docket File*  
*Rm 222*  
POLICY & PLANNING  
BRANCH ROOM 5202

18 FEB 1993

IN REPLY REFER TO:

7330-7/1700A3

RECEIVED

MAR -9 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Honorable Frank R. Wolf  
House of Representatives  
104 Cannon Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wolf:

This is in reply to your letter of February 3, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of several of your constituents regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals.

Your constituents are specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

No. of Copies rec'd *2 copies*  
List A B C D E

*19*

Honorable Frank R. Wolf

2.

We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituents' concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the Notice are due May 28, 1993, and Reply Comments are due July 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994. We urge your constituents to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sincerely,

*Ralph A. Haller*

Ralph A. Haller  
Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures:  
Notice  
Order  
Discussion paper

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Ralph A. Haller  
Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures:  
Notice  
Order  
Discussion paper

cc:  
Chief, PRBureau  
Chief, LM&M Divison  
Docket Files, Room 222  
P&P Branch File (Pink)

CNTL NO - 9300445

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CONGRESS/9300445

# Congressional

DIR OBC: 2-17-93

PLEASE MAKE 2 EXTRA COPIES OF INCOMING, ATTACHMENTS,  
AND REPLY FOR DOCKET FILE, ROOM 222.

## CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM 02/08/93

### LETTER REPORT

CONTROL NO.	DATE RECEIVED	DATE OF CORRESP	DATE DUE	DATE DUE OLA(857)
9300445	02/08/93	02/03/93	02/19/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME	REPLY FOR SIG OF
Congressman	Frank Wolf	BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
constituents	inq. comments on PR Docket 92-235

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
PRE/hmm			

2-10-93

DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
02/08/93			

REMARKS: reply atn; Buzz Hawley

RECEIVED  
FEB 10 2 04 PM '93  
PRIVATE

FRANK R. WOLF  
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
104 CANNON BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4610  
(202) 225-5136

CONSTITUENT SERVICES OFFICES:

1851 OLD MEADOW ROAD  
SUITE 115  
MCLEAN, VA 22102  
(703) 734-1500

19 EAST MARKET STREET  
LEESBURG, VA 22075  
(703) 777-4422  
METRO NUMBER  
(703) 478-1303

PRB  
92-235  
445  
Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4610

February 3, 1993

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
TRANSPORTATION

TREASURY—POSTAL SERVICE—GENERAL  
GOVERNMENT

SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON CHILDREN, YOUTH  
AND FAMILIES

SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON HUNGER

COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND  
COOPERATION IN EUROPE

Mr. Andrew S. Fishel  
Managing Director  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Fishel:

I have enclosed copies of letters I have received from my constituents concerning a proposed rule change regarding radio frequencies for model airplanes.

I would appreciate your review of my constituents' observations as you continue your consideration of this matter. I would also appreciate any comments you may have regarding this situation. It would be helpful if you addressed your reply to me, attention: Buzz Hawley.

Thank you for your assistance and courtesy in being responsive to my constituents.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress

FRW:bh

RECEIVED  
FEB 10 2 04 PM '93  
PRIVATE



603 South Greenhorn Ave.  
Sterling, VA 20164-5002  
January 27, 1993

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

FEB 03 1993

Dear Sir:

Today I was notified of an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Change (NPRM-PR Docket 92-235) concerning the increase of frequencies in the 72 and 75 MHz range.

I strongly ask you to vote against this proposed rule change.

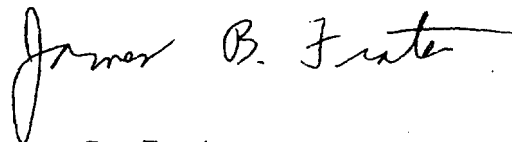
I have been an active radio control modeler for over 14 years and have quite a bit of money invested in my three radios and four airplanes.

Allowing this restructuring of the radio spectrum and usable frequencies would render my equipment useless. Since the proposed new frequencies are so close, interference will occur and render most model frequencies unusable.

If the frequencies are adopted, people could be injured by wayward aircraft caused by interference (or being "hit") from the new frequencies which are too close to our frequencies and too powerful for our receivers to filter out.

Again, sir, I urge you to vote "NO" to this proposed rule change. Thank you for your attention in this matter. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to write or call me at 703-450-5793.

Sincerely yours,



James B. Frater

.JBF:jf

Runnymede Farm  
P.O. Box 271  
Marshall, VA 22115

FEB 02 1993

29 January 1993

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Wolf,

I am a retired Naval Officer, a Communications Specialist, with an avid interest in radio controlled model sailplanes and model sailboats. I have been building model airplanes since the late thirties and put my first radio-controlled model in the air while a student at the Naval Postgraduate School in 1956. The transmitter and receiver were home-built and self-designed. The rig was licensed by the FCC on 27.255 MHz.

I am concerned about proposed rules currently under consideration by the FCC. The proceeding is PR docket 92-235. If adopted, these rules would greatly reduce the usability of the frequencies currently assigned for legitimate model use and increase the risk of accident and attendant liability. My soaring club, the Capital Area Soaring Association (CASA) already forbids the use of Channels 20 and 21 because of interference from TV Channel 4. Harmonics produced affect many channels of model radio receivers.

Our frequencies are in the 72-76 MHz band. This band is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operations. Currently radio control frequencies and land mobile frequencies have sufficient separation that neither interferes with the other.

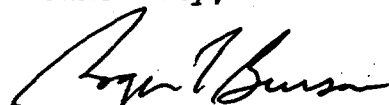
Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile channels by using narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. Many land mobile frequencies would move closer to radio control frequencies and quite probably cause interference with radio control operations. As a Communications Specialist who retired from the game only recently, I do not believe that the proposed 2.5kHz channel separation is sufficient without the use of expensive and rather exotic equipment. Even slight "spill-over" could cause problems because of the higher power permitted to land mobile. I understand that of the 50 channels now permitted for model airplane use, only 19 will remain if these new rules are adopted. The loss of over three-fifths is unreasonable.

The Academy of Model Aeronautics (of which I have long been a member, my license number is 9094) and the manufacturers of radio control equipment have exerted an enormous effort to police our R/C equipment and to make our sport interference-free. Serious injury might result otherwise since some models have wingspans of 10 or more feet and weigh up to 40 pounds.

I do not think it wise or logical for the FCC to seek to increase land mobile service to the detriment of radio control modelers. The FCC and commercial enterprise may think that we are not as important or as valuable as commercial users, but we have a considerable investment in our radio equipment and in our models. For example, I have two expensive radio systems for controlling my sailplanes (72 MHz band) and one for my model sailboat (75 MHz band) plus the investment in my models. Model aviation contributes to the GNP. I also spend over \$100 per year for memberships which provide insurance and a place to fly. Even now, flying space in metropolitan areas has become extremely limited because local and county governments increasingly restrict where we can fly because of the "no-risk" mentality. CASA rents two sites in western Maryland where we may go to fly. Soaring is permitted at the Manassas Battlefield with special permit only. Even with restrictions, thousands of people like myself and my seven year- old grandson enjoy the thrill of sending a sleek, scientifically- designed, craft into the air to soar on the currents of the wind and being able to put it through complex maneuvers and bring it back to fly again.

I urge you to permit me and others to enjoy the safe enjoyment of this constructive hobby by refusing the FCC to carry out its proposals to reorganize the 72-76 MHz radio frequency band.

Sincerely,



Roger T. Burson  
LCDR, USN, RET  
(AMA 9094)

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20510

FEB 01 1993

Dear Mr. Wolf,

I am very concerned about the proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission. The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies already assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72 - 76 MHz band, a band primarily used for private Land Mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the Land Mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other. Now the FCC wants to create more Land Mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many Land Mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control of model airplanes, only 19 frequencies will be left if these new rules are adopted. Many thousands of dollars of radio control equipment owned by members of my club will be rendered useless.

When we fly our model airplanes we go through great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the assigned radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly reduced. Please understand that many model airplanes have wing spans up to 10 feet, weigh as much as 30-40 pounds and fly at a high rate of speed. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We need the use of our full compliment of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

I do not think it is wise for the FCC to seek to allocate more radio frequencies for Land Mobile users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and radio equipment. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people (voters) like myself and contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry.

Please help me to continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-75 MHz band.

Sincerely,

*G. W. Hoppe*

GERALD W. HOPPE

P.O. Box 122

LINCOLN VA. 22078

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20510

JAN 29 1993

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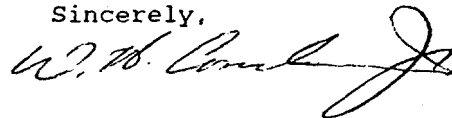
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Please help me to continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-75 MHz band.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM H. CONDON JR.

13450 TAYLORSTOWN ROAD

LEESBURG, VA. 22075

HOME PHONE 1-703-777-4527

WORK PHONE 1-703-534-5555

AMATEUR 265510

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20510

JAN 29 1993

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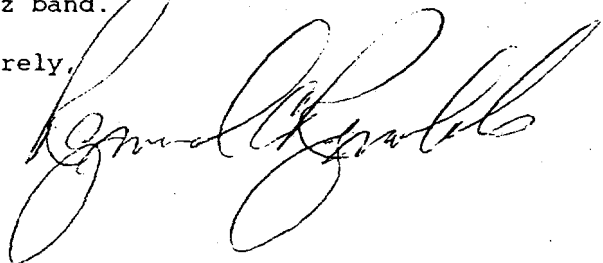
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Please help me to continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-75 MHz band.

Sincerely,



Ray Reynolds  
724 Sugarland Run Dr.  
Sterling, Va. 20164  
1-23-93

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wolf,

This is just a personal note to reiterate how much the proposed FCC changes would impact model aviation.

I personally have been involved in R/C airplanes for only three years. In that time my investment is already in the thousands of dollars. It's not necessary to spend that much, but the hobby grows on you.

I have trained several young people to fly, and seen their eagerness to spend time on a constructive learning experience.

This past summer there was an R/C airplane demonstration at Ida Lee Park in Leesburg, Virginia. Enthusiastic public interest was overwhelming. The FCC would in effect take this away from us.

As a longstanding, loyal registered republican I would appreciate if you took the time to investigate these proposed FCC changes.

It's not fair to just push this hobby aside casually. With possible frequency interference no one could responsibly fly an R/C airplane. The chance of losing control would make it irresponsible.

Thank you for your time. Maybe the White House will be back in '96. I know I voted republican.

Sincerely,

Samuel K. Smith

P.S. The club I belong to has over 130 members. There are a number of clubs in the metro area alone. Our club is:

Reston R/C  
P.O. Box 5011  
Herndon, Va. 22070



The Honorable Frank Wolf  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20510

1-23-93

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JAN 29 1993

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Please help me to continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-75 MHz band.

Sincerely,

Bill Traupham  
Box 765  
Hamilton Va 22068  
703 338 4635

JAN 28 1993

10th

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20510

13112 Weather Vane Way  
Herndon, VA 22071

21/1/93

Dear Mr. Wolf,

I employed by Sprint, the phone company, and I design data communications equipment for my living. For my recreation, I enjoy making and flying radio controlled model airplanes, and I am writing to you to express my concern about the proposed new rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission. The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies already assigned for model use, and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

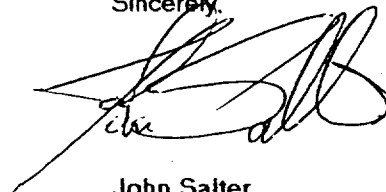
Our radio control frequencies are in the 72 -75 MHz band, a band primarily used for private Land Mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the Land Mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other. Now the FCC wants to create more Land Mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and re-arranging the band plan. As a result, many Land Mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies. I'm told that, of the frequencies we may currently use, less than 30% will be left if these new rules are adopted. Many thousands of dollars of radio control equipment will instantly be rendered useless. I will personally be forced to condemn over \$1000 of equipment that I have struggled to buy over the past few years.

When we fly our models we go through great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders,, and the protection of property. Our safety precautions involve careful co-ordination and use of the assigned radio control frequencies. If the number of useable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and, either the margin of safety will be greatly reduced or, our ability to enjoy our chosen recreation will be totally ruined. Please understand that many of our models have wing spans up to 10 feet, weigh as much as 30-40 pounds and fly at up to 100 mph. The models are very expensive to build, often taking up to 100 hours to construct. But more to the point, they are capable of causing serious injury, or even death, if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We are already painfully aware that many manufacturers of other kinds of radio equipment are not as careful to avoid interference as the makers of our equipment. By allowing the remaining frequencies to operate so close to ours is a recipe for disaster.

I, therefore, do not consider it wise for the FCC to seek to allocate more radio frequencies for Land Mobile users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not consider us to be as important as business users of radios, but there are thousands of business people (voters) who, like me, have considerable investments in their models and radio equipment, and the quality of their lives will be considerably diminished if these proposals are approved.

Please help me to continue the safe enjoyment of my recreation, by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72 -75 Mhz band.

Sincerely,



John Salter

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20510

FEB 11 1993

Dear Mr. Wolf,

I am very concerned about the proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission. The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new rules will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies already assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

Our radio control frequencies are in the 72 - 76 MHz band, a band primarily used for private Land Mobile dispatch operations. However, our radio control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the Land Mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the other. Now the FCC wants to create more Land Mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrower bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many Land Mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies. I am told that of the 50 frequencies that are presently available for radio control of model airplanes, only 19 frequencies will be left if these new rules are adopted. Many thousands of dollars of radio control equipment owned by members of my club will be rendered useless.

When we fly our model airplanes we go through great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of the assigned radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested and the margin of safety will be greatly reduced. Please understand that many model airplanes have wing spans up to 10 feet, weigh as much as 30-40 pounds and fly at a high rate of speed. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We need the use of our full compliment of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

I do not think it is wise for the FCC to seek to allocate more radio frequencies for Land Mobile users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radios, but we have a considerable investment in our models and radio equipment. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people (voters) like myself and contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry.

Please help me to continue the safe enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-75 MHz band.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Swan

Robert C. Swan

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STERLING, VA 20165